In the Claims

Claims remaining in the application are as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): A slot filler adapted for usage in a rack cabinet configured to accept a plurality of stacked ~~housing-contained~~ standard electronic equipment ~~nU~~ devices ~~where n is a multiple of U-units of size 1 or greater~~ housed within standard rack mount cases, the cabinet having an air inlet and exit on mutually opposing sides and a plurality of slots capable of securing the stacked electronic devices, the slot filler comprising:

a blanking panel adapted to cover an entry opening of an unoccupied slot; and

a body coupled to the blanking panel that emulates dimensions of a ~~housing-contained~~ standard rack mount case housing a standard electronic equipment ~~nU~~ device and has a thickness selected so that clearance between the slot filler and an adjacent ~~housing-contained electronic device~~ rack mount case and/or slot filler leaves an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance ~~preventing~~ that prevents air from re-circling toward the air inlet.

2. (Currently Amended): The slot filler according to Claim 1 wherein:

the cabinet has a frontal surface and columns coupled to the frontal surface on lateral ends of the plurality of slots; ~~and~~

the blanking panel attaches to the columns;

the standard electronic equipment devices and standard rack mount cases are standard nU devices and cases where n is a multiple of U units of size 1 or greater; and

the rack mount cases have planar exterior surfaces abutting the airflow gaps.

3. (Previously presented): The slot filler according to Claim 1 wherein:

the blanking panel is a cosmetic plate that is used to cover open spaces in the cabinet and to facilitate controlled airflow and is constructed from sheet metal and/or plastic; and

the body is constructed from sheet metal and/or plastic.

4. (Currently Amended): A slot filler adapted for usage in a rack cabinet configured to accept a plurality of stacked ~~housing-contained~~ standard electronic equipment ~~1U~~ devices ~~having a box-structure~~ housed within standard rack mount cases, the cabinet having an air inlet and exit on mutually opposing sides and a plurality of slots adapted to secure the stacked electronic devices, the slot filler comprising:

a blanking panel configured to cover an entry opening of an unoccupied slot; and

a ~~box-structured~~ body coupled to the blanking panel that emulates dimensions of a ~~housing-contained 1U~~ rack mount case housing an electronic device and has a thickness selected so that clearance between the slot filler body and an adjacent ~~housing-contained~~ electronic device rack mount case and/or slot filler body leaves an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance ~~preventing~~ that prevents air from re-circling toward the air inlet.

5. (Currently Amended): The slot filler according to Claim ~~1~~ 4 wherein:

the body shape is approximately a rectangular polyhedron; and

surfaces of the rack mount case and slot filler body adjacent the air flow gap are planar.

6. (Currently Amended): The slot filler according to Claim ~~1~~ 4 wherein:

the body shape is approximately a rigid rectangular plate; and

surfaces of the rack mount case and slot filler body adjacent the air flow gap are planar.

7. (Previously presented): The slot filler according to Claim ~~1~~ 4 wherein:

the body has an adjustable length for extension into the cabinet a controlled depth, the body being selected from a group of bodies consisting of a telescoping body with at least one telescoping joint enabling length adjustment, a body with at least one perforated break line relatively weakening the body structure at selected depths into the rack cabinet, and a body including a plurality of rigid rectangular plates with a sliding mechanism enabling the plates to slide relative to one another.

8. (Currently Amended): A system comprising:

a rack cabinet adapted to hold a plurality of stacked ~~housing-contained~~ standard electronic equipment ~~nU~~ devices ~~where n is a multiple of U units of size 1 or greater~~ housed within standard rack mount cases;

an air inlet and exit coupled to mutually opposing sides of the cabinet;

a plurality of slots contained within the cabinet and adapted to secure the stacked rack mount cases containing the ~~housing-contained standard~~ electronic equipment ~~nU~~ devices; and

a slot filler comprising:

a blanking panel capable of covering an entry opening of an unoccupied slot; and

a body coupled to the blanking panel that emulates dimensions of a ~~housing-contained~~ standard rack mount case housing a standard electronic equipment ~~nU~~ device and has a thickness selected so that clearance between the slot filler body and an adjacent ~~housing-contained standard electronic equipment nU device~~ rack mount case and/or slot filler leaves an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance ~~preventing~~ that prevents air from re-circling toward the air inlet.

9. (Currently Amended): The system according to Claim 8 wherein:

the cabinet has a frontal surface and columns coupled to the frontal surface on lateral ends of the plurality of slots; ~~and~~

the blanking panel attaches to the columns;

the standard electronic equipment devices and standard rack mount cases are standard nU devices and cases where n is a multiple of U units of size 1 or greater; and

the rack mount cases have planar exterior surfaces abutting the airflow gaps.

10. (Previously presented): The system according to Claim 8 wherein:

the blanking panel is a cosmetic plate that is used to cover open spaces in the cabinet and to facilitate controlled airflow and is constructed from sheet metal and/or plastic; and

the body is constructed from sheet metal and/or plastic.

11. (Currently Amended): A system comprising:

a rack cabinet adapted to hold a plurality of stacked ~~housing-contained~~ electronic devices housed within rack mount cases;

an air inlet and exit coupled to mutually opposing sides of the cabinet;

a plurality of slots contained within the cabinet and adapted to secure the stacked rack mount cases containing the ~~housing-contained~~ electronic devices; and

a slot filler adapted for usage in ~~a~~ the rack cabinet ~~configured to accept a plurality of stacked standard electronic equipment 1U devices having a box-structure~~, the slot filler comprising:

a blanking panel configured to cover an entry opening of an unoccupied slot; and

a ~~box-structured~~ body coupled to the blanking panel that emulates dimensions of a ~~housing-contained 1U~~ rack mount case housing an electronic device and has a thickness selected so that clearance between the slot filler body and an adjacent ~~housing-contained~~ electronic device rack mount case and/or slot filler body leaves an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance ~~preventing~~ that prevents air from re-circling toward the air inlet.

12. (Currently Amended): The system according to Claim 8 wherein:

the body shape is approximately a rectangular polyhedron; and

surfaces of the rack mount case and slot filler body adjacent the air flow gap are planar.

13. (Currently Amended): The system according to Claim 8 wherein:

the body shape is approximately a rigid rectangular plate; and

surfaces of the rack mount case and slot filler body adjacent the air flow gap are planar.

14. (Previously presented): The system according to Claim 8 wherein:

the body has an adjustable length for extension into the cabinet a controlled depth, the body being selected from a group of bodies consisting of a telescoping body with at least one telescoping joint enabling length adjustment, a body with at least one perforated break line relatively weakening the body structure

at selected depths into the rack cabinet, and a body including a plurality of rigid rectangular plates with a sliding mechanism enabling the plates to slide relative to one another.

15. (Currently Amended): A method of controlling airflow in an electronic system comprising:

~~encasing~~ inserting a plurality of ~~housing-contained~~ standard electronic equipment nU devices contained within standard nU rack mount cases where n is a multiple of U units of size 1 or greater ~~in~~ into a housing having multiple slots ~~for receiving~~ configured to receive the rack mount cases ~~housing-contained standard electronic equipment nU devices~~ arranged in a stack;

directing a cooling airstream flow over the plurality of ~~housing-contained standard~~ rack mount cases containing the electronic equipment nU devices ~~where n is a multiple of U units of size 1 or greater~~ from an air inlet to an exit;

inserting a slot filler within any unoccupied slots between the plurality of ~~housing-contained standard~~ rack mount cases containing the electronic equipment nU devices ~~where n is a multiple of U units of size 1 or greater~~ and/or slot fillers; and

arranging the plurality of ~~housing-contained standard~~ rack mount cases containing the electronic equipment nU devices ~~where n is a multiple of U units of size 1 or greater~~ and slot fillers with a selected clearance between adjacent ~~housing-contained standard~~ rack mount cases containing the electronic equipment nU devices and/or slot fillers leaving an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance ~~preventing~~ that prevents air from re-circling toward the air inlet.

16. (Currently Amended): A method of controlling airflow in an electronic system comprising:

~~encasing~~ inserting a plurality of ~~housing-contained~~ electronic devices contained within rack mount cases ~~in~~ into a housing having multiple slots ~~for receiving~~ configured to receive the rack mount cases ~~housing-contained electronic devices~~ arranged in a stack;

directing a cooling airstream flow over the plurality of stacked rack mount cases containing the ~~housing-contained~~ electronic devices from an air inlet to an exit;

inserting a slot filler within any unoccupied slots between the plurality of stacked rack mount cases containing the ~~housing-contained~~ electronic devices; and

arranging the plurality of stacked rack mount cases containing the ~~housing-contained~~ electronic devices and slot fillers with a selected clearance between adjacent housing-contained electronic devices and/or slot fillers leaving an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance ~~preventing~~ that prevents air from re-circling toward the air inlet; ~~and~~

~~selecting dimensions and form of the slot fillers to emulate a box-structured 1U electronic device~~.

17. (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim ~~15~~ 16 further comprising:

receiving the cooling airstream flow into the housing from an air inlet in a front portion of the housing; and

venting warm air from the stacked ~~standard~~ electronic ~~equipment nU~~ devices to an exit in a rear portion of the housing.

18. (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim ~~15~~ 16 further comprising:

covering the slot filler in an unoccupied slot with an ornamental covering.

19. (Currently Amended): The method according to Claim ~~15~~ 16 further comprising:

adjusting slot filler length for extension into the housing a controlled depth selected from a group of actions consisting of adjusting at least one telescoping joint in a telescoping body, breaking the body structure along a perforated break line relatively weakening the body structure at a selected depth into the rack cabinet, and sliding a plurality of rigid rectangular plates relative to one another.

20. (Currently Amended): A system comprising:

a housing with a plurality of slots regularly arranged in a stack for receiving multiple ~~housing-contained-standard~~ electronic equipment ~~nU~~ devices ~~where n is a multiple of U-units of size 1 or greater~~ encased within rack mount cases, the housing having an air inlet and an air exit for passing cooling air through the ~~housing-contained-standard~~ rack mount encased electronic equipment ~~nU~~ devices;

at least one ~~housing-contained-standard~~ rack mount encased electronic equipment ~~nU~~ device inserted into at least one of the plurality of slots; and

at least one slot filler inserted into the a slot of the plurality of slots, the slot fillers having dimensions that emulate dimensions of a ~~housing-contained-standard electronic equipment nU device~~ rack mount case,

the at least one ~~housing-contained-standard~~ rack mount encased electronic equipment ~~nU~~ device and the slot filler having an arrangement when inserted into the slots so that clearance between the adjacent slot fillers and/or ~~housing-contained-standard~~ rack mount encased electronic equipment ~~nU device~~ devices is an air flow gap that extends from the air inlet to the air exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance ~~preventing~~ that prevents air from re-circling toward the air inlet.

21. (Currently Amended): A system for controlling airflow in an electronic system comprising:

means for ~~encasing~~ holding a plurality of ~~housing-contained-standard~~ electronic ~~equipment nU~~ devices ~~where n is a multiple of U-units of size 1 or greater~~ contained within rack mount cases;

means within the ~~encasing~~ holding means for receiving the plurality of ~~housing-contained-standard~~ rack mount contained electronic ~~equipment nU~~ devices arranged in a stack;

means for directing a cooling airstream flow over the plurality of ~~housing-contained-standard~~ rack mount contained electronic ~~equipment nU~~ devices ~~where n is a multiple of U-units of size 1 or greater~~ from an air inlet to an exit; and

means for filling any unoccupied receiving means, the receiving means, ~~standard~~ rack mount contained electronic equipment ~~nU~~ devices, and filling means being arranged with a selected clearance between adjacent ~~standard~~ rack

mount contained electronic ~~equipment nU~~ devices and/or filling means leaving an air flow gap from the air inlet to exit that is sufficiently small to create an air flow resistance ~~preventing~~ that prevents air from re-circling toward the air inlet.